United Nations A/C.4/65/L.1

General Assembly

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21 September 2010

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Sixty-fifth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Organization of work

Note by the Chair

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration are listed in document A/C.4/65/1. Background information on those items, including references to related documentation, is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fifth session (A/65/100 and Add.1).[1]

2. The General Assembly, in rule 99, paragraph (b), of its rules of procedure, calls on each Main Committee to adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated for the consideration of each item.

3. The General Assembly decided that the sixty-fifth session should recess on Tuesday, 14 December 2010, and that, inter alia, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) should complete its work by Wednesday, 10 November 2010 (see A/65/250, paras. 10 and 11).

4. To that end, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) may wish to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of the items on its agenda with the understanding that it may be revised periodically, as appropriate. The Committee will also combine consideration of specific items on its agenda in order to ensure full and efficient utilization of the conference facilities allocated to it. As indicated below, conference services has allocated 25 meetings to the Committee and has urged the Committee to make every effort to complete its work within the allotted time. Should the Committee wish to change the dates for consideration of items, it would still have to work within the dates and times indicated below.

[1] For the final list of agenda items adopted by the General Assembly, see A/65/251.

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Agenda items	*Dates for consideration*
Organization of work	Thursday, 30 September, a.m. (1 meeting)
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 55) Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 56) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 57) Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 58) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 59)	Monday, 4 October, p.m. Tuesday, 5 October, p.m. Wednesday, 6 October, p.m. Thursday, 7 October, p.m. Friday, 8 October, p.m. (5 meetings)
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate) (item 50)	Tuesday, 12 October, a.m. Wednesday, 13 October, a.m. Thursday, 14 October, a.m. Friday, 15 October, a.m. (4 meetings)
Questions relating to information (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate) (item 54)	Tuesday, 19 October, p.m. Wednesday, 20 October, p.m. Thursday, 21 October, p.m. (3 meetings)
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate) (item 53)	Friday, 22 October, a.m. Monday, 25 October, a.m. Tuesday, 26 October, a.m. Wednesday, 27 October, a.m. (4 meetings)

Agenda items	*Dates for consideration*
Effects of atomic radiation (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate) (item 49)	Thursday, 28 October, a.m. (1 meeting)
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (question and answer period followed by a general debate) (item 51)	Monday, 1 November, p.m. Tuesday, 2 November, p.m. Wednesday, 3 November, a.m. (3 meetings)
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 52)	Friday, 5 November, a.m. Monday, 8 November, a.m. Tuesday, 9 November, a.m. (3 meetings)
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (draft programme of work for the next session) (item 118) Programme planning (item 130) Action on all pending draft resolutions and decisions	Wednesday, 10 November, a.m. (1 meeting)
Total	**25 meetings**

5. In the preparation of the above timetable, the Chair was guided by the following considerations:

(a) In accordance with established procedures and practices and bearing in mind the availability of documentation, the Committee may wish to hold one general debate covering agenda items 55 to 59, and individual debates on agenda items 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 118 and 130 on the understanding that draft resolutions and/or decisions will be considered separately;

(b) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and petitioners will be heard as early as possible during the Committee's consideration of the related items, and the Chair suggests that the Committee devote its meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, 5 and 6 October, to the hearing of petitioners;

(c) Item 118, "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", is allocated to all the Main Committees for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programme of work;

(d) Item 130, "Programme planning", is allocated to all the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports. If the Assembly allocates any report submitted under this item to the Fourth Committee, the Committee shall revert to this item.

6. Subject to the above provisional programme of work being acceptable to the Committee and in order to facilitate its work, the Chair wishes to suggest that the list of speakers in the general debate covering agenda items 55 to 59 be closed on Monday, 4 October, at 6 p.m. The Committee will take decisions on the closure of the list of speakers relating to the general debates on the remaining items at the appropriate time.

7. The Chair also wishes to draw the attention of members of the Committee to the decisions of the General Assembly on the organization of its work contained in document A/65/250, sections II.B to III.

8. Members are also requested to bear in mind the decision of the General Assembly that morning and afternoon meetings should start promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., both for all plenary meetings and for meetings of the Main Committees during the sixty-fifth session. The attention of the Members is also drawn to the decision of the Assembly to waive, at its sixty-fifth session, the quorum required, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for the Chair to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed (see A/65/250, paras. 12 and 15).

9. In view of the limited number of meetings available to the Committee, it is suggested that the time limit for statements be set at 10 minutes, with the exception of statements made by the spokespersons of groups of delegations, which would be extended to 15 minutes. In this connection, the Chair will set the time limit for the petitioners as it is deemed necessary.

10. In order to allow the distribution of prepared texts of statements made in the Committee to delegations, the specialized agencies, observers, interpreters and record-writers, 300 copies are required. A minimum of 30 copies should be given in advance of delivery of the statement in order to help the Secretariat to provide the best possible service.

11. The list of documents submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is contained in document A/C.4/65/INF/1, which will be updated as necessary.

United Nations A/C.4/65/L.2

General Assembly

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Sixty-fifth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 50
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Romania:* draft resolution

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996, 54/68 of 6 December 1999, 59/2 of 20 October 2004, 61/110 and 61/111 of 14 December 2006, 62/101 of 17 December 2007, 62/217 of 22 December 2007 and 64/86 of 10 December 2009,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all mankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges, especially for developing countries,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies[1] (Outer Space Treaty),

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

* In its capacity as Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

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Recognizing also that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contributes to international cooperation, and the importance of further developing the legal framework to strengthen international cooperation in this field,

Convinced of the need to promote the use of space technology towards implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2]

Seriously concerned about the devastating impact of disasters,[3]

Desirous of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services for all countries and facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

Deeply convinced that the use of space science and technology and their applications in areas such as telemedicine, tele-education, disaster management, environmental protection and other Earth observation applications contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication,

Taking note, in that regard, of the fact that the 2005 World Summit recognized the important role that science and technology play in promoting sustainable development,[4]

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its fifty-third session,[5]

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its fifty-third session;[5]

2. *Agrees* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-fourth session, should consider the substantive items recommended by the Committee at its fifty-third session,[6] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

3. *Notes* that, at its forty-ninth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its work,[7] as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/86;

4. *Agrees* that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by

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[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] The term "disasters" refers to natural or technological disasters.

[4] See resolution 60/1, para. 60.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/65/20).

[6] Ibid., para. 339.

[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/65/20), chap. II.D; and A/AC.105/942.

the Committee,[8] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

5. *Urges* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space[9] to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties in accordance with their domestic law, as well as incorporating them in their national legislation;

6. *Notes* that, at its forty-seventh session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its work,[10] as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/86;

7. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-eighth session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,[11] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

8. *Notes with appreciation* that some States are already implementing space debris mitigation measures on a voluntary basis, through national mechanisms and consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,[12] endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/217;

9. *Invites* other States to implement, through relevant national mechanisms, the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;[12]

10. *Considers* that it is essential that States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

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[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/65/20), paras. 229-231.

[9] Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 672, No. 9574); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 961, No. 13810); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1023, No. 15020); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1363, No. 23002).

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/65/20), chap. II.C, and A/AC.105/958.

[11] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/65/20), paras. 170 and 171.

[12] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/62/20), paras. 117 and 118, and annex.

11. *Urges* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

12. *Endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2011, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications and endorsed by the Committee;[13]

13. *Welcomes* the progress made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems towards achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and in the promotion of the use of global navigation satellite systems and their integration into national infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, and notes with satisfaction that the International Committee will hold its fifth meeting in Turin, Italy, from 18 to 22 October 2010, jointly organized by Italy and the European Commission;

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made within the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in the implementation of the workplan of the UN-SPIDER programme for the biennium 2010-2011,[14] and encourages Member States to provide all necessary support, on a voluntary basis, to UN-SPIDER, including financial support, to enable it to carry out the workplan;

15. *Welcomes with appreciation* the signing of a host country agreement on 17 June 2010 between the Government of China and the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the establishment of the UN-SPIDER Beijing office, and welcomes the fact that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/110, regional support offices have been established in several countries to support the implementation of the activities of the UN-SPIDER programme;[15]

16. *Agrees* that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should ensure, within existing resources, the coordination of the UN-SPIDER SpaceAid framework with mechanisms and initiatives that are making space-based information available to support responses to emergency events, thus avoiding duplication of efforts;

17. *Notes with appreciation* that the African regional centres for space science and technology education in the French and English languages, located in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, as well as the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean, affiliated to the United Nations, have continued their education programmes in 2010, and agrees that the regional centres should continue to report to the Committee on their activities;

18. *Emphasizes* that regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, assist

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[13] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/65/20), para. 79; and A/AC.105/969, sects. II and III and annex III.

[14] See A/AC.105/937.

[15] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/65/20), para. 113.

States in the development of their space capabilities and contribute to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] and to that end fosters interregional dialogue on space matters between Member States;

19. *Recognizes*, in this regard, the important role played by conferences and other mechanisms in strengthening regional and international cooperation among States, such as the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and the Space Conference of the Americas;

20. *Notes with appreciation* that since the adoption of the Declaration of San Francisco de Quito by the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas in July 2006, more States in the Latin America and Caribbean region have set up national space entities of a civilian nature, thus laying the foundation for enhanced regional cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and recalls that in the Declaration, States in the Latin America and Caribbean region were invited to, inter alia, "set up national space entities to lay the foundation for a regional entity for cooperation";

21. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including mitigation of the consequences of disasters, in particular in the developing countries;

22. *Notes* that space science and technology and their applications make important contributions to economic, social and cultural development and welfare, as indicated in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development",[16] its resolution 59/2 and the Plan of Action of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III);[17]

23. *Notes with satisfaction* that a number of the recommendations set out in the Plan of Action have been implemented and that satisfactory progress is being made in implementing the outstanding recommendations, and that Member States continue to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III through national and regional activities and by supporting and participating in the programmes established in response to those recommendations;

24. *Urges* all Member States to continue to contribute to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications to enhance the capacity of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to provide technical and legal advisory services in accordance with the Plan of Action, while maintaining the priority thematic areas agreed by the Committee;

25. *Reiterates* that the benefits of space technology and its applications should continue to be brought to the attention, in particular, of the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development

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[16] See *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19-30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

[17] See A/59/174, sect. VI.B.

and related fields and that the use of space technology should be promoted towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and summits and for implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

26. *Notes with satisfaction* that the working paper by the Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the period 2008-2009 entitled "Towards a United Nations space policy" will be considered by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session;[18]

27. *Welcomes* the increased efforts to strengthen further the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, notes with satisfaction that the open informal meetings, held in conjunction with the annual sessions of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, provide a constructive mechanism for an active dialogue between the entities of the United Nations system and Member States, and encourages entities of the United Nations system to participate fully in the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting;

28. *Urges* entities of the United Nations system, particularly those participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, to continue to examine, in cooperation with the Committee, how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration on the development agenda, particularly in the areas relating to, inter alia, food security and increasing opportunities for education;

29. *Agrees* that the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs should continue to participate in the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development to raise awareness and promote the benefits of space science and technology for sustainable development;

30. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, and agrees that during its consideration of the matter the Committee could continue to consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation based on experiences stemming from the Space Conferences of the Americas, the African Leadership Conferences on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development and the role space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

31. *Notes* that in accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee at its forty-sixth session on the measures relating to the future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,[19] on the basis of the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,[20] the Group of Asian States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and Other States nominated their candidates for the offices of Chair of the Committee, Chair of the Scientific and Technical

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[18] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/65/20), para. 337; and A/AC.105/L.278.

[19] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/58/20), annex II, paras. 4-9.

[20] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), annex I; see also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/58/20), annex II, appendix III.

Subcommittee and First Vice-Chair of the Committee, respectively, for the period 2012-2013;[21]

32. *Urges* the Group of African States to nominate its candidate for the office of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee and the Group of Eastern European States to nominate its candidate for the office of Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee, for the period 2012-2013, before the next meeting of those bodies;

33. *Agrees* that, upon the nomination of the candidate of the Group of African States and the candidate of the Group of Eastern European States, the Committee and its subsidiary bodies should elect their officers;

34. *Decides* that Tunisia shall become a member of the Committee;[22]

35. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee to grant permanent observer status to the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety;[23]

36. *Notes* that each of the regional groups has the responsibility for actively promoting the participation in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies of the member States of the Committee that are also members of the respective regional groups, and agrees that the regional groups should consider this Committee-related matter among their members;

37. *Requests* entities of the United Nations system and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, to enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with reports on the issues dealt with in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies;

38. *Welcomes* that the Committee will celebrate at its fifty-fourth session the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee and the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight.

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[21] Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/65/20), paras. 301-303.

[22] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/65/20), paras. 305 and 306.

[23] Ibid., para. 308.